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Watergate II? CIA probe, charges shake U.S.

By Richard L. Strout

Staff correspondent

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Like a man who feels he is being "shadowed" but can't throw off his pursuer, the American government has been dogged for a year following President Nixon's resignation (Aug. 1974) by new revelations, or purported revelations, of clandestine federal activities of the CIA, FBI, Internal Revenue Service, and other agencies.

Nothing like it has ever been known before in American history.

An explosion of new charges, suspicions, and disputes this week stems back to the central point, observers believe, that Mr. Nixon, beset by Watergate and mounting internal and external pressures, set up a kind of White House staff shadow government which partly superseded the old Cabinet system and also gave intelligence agencies a freedom never equalled before.

The CIA activities "within the United States" were outlined in the 299-page Rockefeller Commission report, June 10, which purposely omitted CIA activities abroad, including charges of connivance in foreign assassination plots.

New sensations appear regularly.

Latest developments follow:

- The House Rules Committee seeks to resolve a multiplying CIA row within the House Intelligence Committee over its management and jurisdiction.

- Charges that the CIA "infiltrated" the White House itself are called "outrageous nonsense" by Director William E. Colby and White House spokesman Ron Nessen said that a handful of CIA employees work at the White House "quite openly" and pooh-poohed congressional charges of "infiltration."

- The Senate committee continues to hear behind-doors testimony on CIA operations abroad, including former Secretary of State Dean Rusk on July 10.

- The CIA made a surprise, late-evening release of its half-inch thick internal report on domestic spying on July 8, simultaneously with providing the report to Morton Halperin, former National Security Council staff member and CIA critic, who had sued to get it.

- The family of Frank R. Olson reportedly planned to sue the government following disclosure by the Rockefeller report that he had killed himself in the course of CIA's 10-year experiment with the effects of LSD, given to unsuspecting subjects.

- Sources here say Ashland Oil, Inc.'s previously unexplained government contributions covered costs of a CIA spy operating five years in Europe as a company official.

- In particular, the House select CIA inquiry has proliferated into three interconnected rows:

- Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D) of Massachusetts, member of the House committee, ran across material in secret testimony about CIA political operations in Chile, 1970-71, which made him feel justified in conscience to disclose confidential material. The incident has brought efforts to discipline Mr. Harrington, who is fighting back.

- Democratic members of the committee seek to depose chairman Lucien N. Nedzi (D) of Michigan, who is disclosed to have been briefed a year earlier on CIA assassination attempts in Chile without telling other congressmen.

- Just before the House Rules Committee intervened in the CIA committee row, two congressmen, Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R) of Wisconsin and Ronald Dellums (D) of California, made the charge of CIA "infiltration" of the White House and several other federal agencies.